

Appln. No. 10/782,116  
Amendment dated February 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed November 15, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims** (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A hitch device storage assembly for storing a hitch device, the hitch device storage assembly comprising:

a panel adapted for attachment to a wall;

a receiver hitch extending outwardly from said panel, said receiver hitch being adapted for coupling to the hitch device; and

securing means for securing the hitch device to said receiver hitch;

and

at least two connection openings formed through said panel, a first one of the at least two connection openings being positioned on an opposite side of the receiver hitch from a second one of the at least two connection openings for permitting positioning the first of the at least two connection openings above the receiver hitch and the second of the at least two connection openings below the receiver hitch when the assembly is mounted on the wall.

2. (Currently Amended) The hitch device storage assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1 wherein said securing means comprises aligned holes extending through said receiver hitch, said aligned holes being complimentary to apertures in the hitch device; ~~and~~

~~a securing pin insertable through the aligned holes and apertures whereby the hitch device is secured to the hitch receiver~~

wherein said aligned holes are formed on opposite sides of said receiver hitch, and wherein said aligned holes are located on different sides of said receiver hitch from the opposite sides on which said at least two connection openings are located in said panel.

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3. (Currently Amended) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 2 ~~wherein said securing pin is generally L shaped~~ additionally comprising a securing pin insertable through the aligned holes and apertures whereby the hitch device is secured to the hitch receiver.

4. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 3, further comprising:

a cotter pin insertable through an end of said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver.

5. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 2, further comprising:

a locking mechanism selectively couplable to said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver.

6. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 5 wherein said locking mechanism includes a removable key for actuating said locking mechanism.

7. (Currently Amended) A hitch device storage assembly for storing a plurality of hitch devices, the hitch device storage assembly comprising:

a panel adapted for attachment to a wall;

~~a plurality of~~ at least two spaced receiver hitches mounted on and extending outwardly from said panel, each said receiver hitch being adapted for coupling to a respective one of the hitch devices; and

securing means for securing each hitch device to a respective one of said plurality of receiver hitches;

wherein said securing means for each said receiver hitch of said at least two spaced receiver hitches comprises a pair of axially-aligned holes extending through opposite sides of said receiver hitch;

wherein said opposite sides of a first one of said at least two receiver hitches are oriented substantially parallel to said opposite sides of a second

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one of said at least two spaced receiver hitches such that said opposites sides of said receiver hitches are not oriented toward each other.

8. (Currently Amended) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 7 wherein ~~said securing means comprises aligned holes extending through each said receiver hitch, said aligned holes being complimentary to apertures in the respective hitch device; and~~

each of said aligned holes ~~having~~ has a securing pin ~~insertable removably inserted~~ through the aligned holes and apertures whereby the respective hitch device is secured to said hitch receiver.

9. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 8 wherein each said securing pin is generally L-shaped.

10. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 9, further comprising:

a plurality of cotter pins, each cotter pin being insertable through an end of a respective said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver.

11. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 8, further comprising:

a plurality of locking mechanisms, each locking mechanism being selectively couplable to a respective said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver.

12. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 11 wherein each said locking mechanism includes a removable key for actuating said locking mechanism.

13. (Currently Amended) The hitch device storage assembly of claim [[[1]]] 7 further comprising:

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a plurality of connection openings extending through said panel  
~~whereby said panel is adapted for being attached to the wall using for~~  
receiving connectors extending through the connection openings to attach  
said panel to the wall, at least one of said connection openings being  
positioned between said at least two spaced receiver hitches.

14. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 1 wherein said hitch receiver is generally tubular having a generally rectangular cross-section.

15. (Original) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 7 wherein each said hitch receiver is generally tubular having a generally rectangular cross-section.

16. (New) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 7 wherein each of said aligned holes has a securing pin removably inserted through the aligned holes and apertures whereby the respective hitch device is secured to said hitch receiver;

a plurality of locking mechanisms, each locking mechanism being selectively couplable to a respective said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver;

wherein each said locking mechanism includes a removable key for actuating said locking mechanism;

a plurality of connection openings extending through said panel for receiving connectors extending through the connection openings to attach said panel to the wall, at least one of said connection openings being positioned between said at least two spaced receiver hitches; and

wherein each said hitch receiver is generally tubular having a generally rectangular cross-section.

17. (New) The hitch device storage assembly of claim 1 wherein said securing means comprises aligned holes extending through said receiver

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hitch, said aligned holes being complimentary to apertures in the hitch device;

wherein said aligned holes are formed on opposite sides of said receiver hitch, and wherein said aligned holes are located on different sides of said receiver hitch from the opposite sides on which said at least two connection openings are located in said panel;

a locking mechanism selectively couplable to said securing pin for inhibiting disengagement of said securing pin from said hitch receiver; and

wherein said locking mechanism includes a removable key for actuating said locking mechanism.